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LETTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1997 FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 9 (b) (i) OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 687 (1991) ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should inform you, and through you, the members of the Security Council, that the Director of the Special Commission's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre (BMVC) received, at 1725 hours local time in Baghdad, the attached letter from the Foreign Ministry of the Government of Iraq. The letter states that American personnel attached to the BMVC should leave Iraq immediately, today, via the Baghdad-Amman highway.

Also attached to the present letter is the reply I asked to be passed to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry.

Given that the Government of Iraq has decided not to comply with the decision of the Council expressed in resolution 1137 (1997), I have decided that the majority of the Special Commission personnel should be withdrawn from Iraq temporarily.

I intend that a skeleton staff remain in Baghdad to maintain the Commission's premises and equipment. It remains my hope that the Commission's work can be resumed in full and without restriction at the earliest possible date.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Richard BUTLER

Annex I

Letter dated 13 November 1997 from the Foreign Ministry of the Government of Iraq addressed to the Director of the Special Commission's Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre

Further to my letter of 29 October 1997, I have the honour to inform you of the decision of the Government of Iraq that the American personnel of the BMVC should leave Iraq immediately today 13 November 1997 via Baghdad-Amman highway.

I request that you take the necessary action in accordance with this decision.

Adnan Malik
Head of the Department of
International Organizations
and Conferences

Annex II

Letter dated 13 November 1997 from the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission to the Director of the Baghdad Monitoring and Verification Centre with his reply to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry

Please prepare a letter in the following terms and take it immediately to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. Please obtain an immediate reply, if necessary by waiting at the Foreign Ministry. Please also let me know immediately of their reply.

Text

In reply to your letter of 13 November 1997, regarding the departure from Iraq of UNSCOM personnel of United States nationality, on instructions from the Executive Chairman of UNSCOM, I wish to advise you of the following.

It has been decided to remove from Iraq all UNSCOM personnel with the exception of a small office staff led by General Carlstrom, the Director of BMVC. The staff to depart from Iraq will include all inspection and monitoring staff, including those of United States nationality.

Arrangements have been made for the UNSCOM aircraft to land at Habbaniyah at 0715 on 14 November. The aircraft would depart for Bahrain at 0800. It is our intention that all our personnel who would be leaving Baghdad should be on that aircraft.

Under these circumstances, you are requested to not insist that UNSCOM personnel of United States nationality leave by road from Baghdad to Amman on 13 November, but accept instead my assurances that those personnel would leave on the UNSCOM aircraft at 0800 on 14 November.

Because of the short time of notice, I must ask for an immediate decision and reply to this request.

I have taken note of the oral assurances you gave to General Carlstrom with respect to the safety of all UNSCOM personnel at all times.

Text ends

Richard BUTLER